

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete the paragraph on page 18, line 29 to page 19, line 10 and replace with the following paragraph:

The present invention also includes fusions which include the NPC1L1 polypeptides and *NPC1L1* polynucleotides of the present invention and a second polypeptide or polynucleotide moiety, which may be referred to as a "tag". The fusions of the present invention may comprise any of the polynucleotides or polypeptides set forth in Table 1 or any subsequence or fragment thereof (discussed above). The fused polypeptides of the invention may be conveniently constructed, for example, by insertion of a polynucleotide of the invention or fragment thereof into an expression vector. The fusions of the invention may include tags which facilitate purification or detection. Such tags include glutathione-S-transferase (GST), hexahistidine (His6) tags (**SEQ ID NO: 52**), maltose binding protein (MBP) tags, haemagglutinin (HA) tags, cellulose binding protein (CBP) tags and myc tags. Detectable tags such as ³²P, ³⁵S, ³H, ^{99m}Tc, ¹²³I, ¹¹¹In, ⁶⁸Ga, ¹⁸F, ¹²⁵I, ¹³¹I, ^{113m}In, ⁷⁶Br, ⁶⁷Ga, ^{99m}Tc, ¹²³I, ¹¹¹In and ⁶⁸Ga may also be used to label the polypeptides and polynucleotides of the invention. Methods for constructing and using such fusions are very conventional and well known in the art.